

THURSDAY, JULY 31, 1873.]

SELECTIONS

FROM THE

VERNACULAR NEWSPAPERS

PUBLISHED IN THE PUNJAB,

NORTH-WESTERN PROVINCES,

OUDH, AND CENTRAL PROVINCES,

Received up to 21st June, 1873.

POLITICAL (DOMESTIC).

A correspondent of the Naiyir-i-Akbar; of the 29th May, writing from Nugeena (Bijnour) invites the attention of the municipality of that town to the following defects connected with its conservancy and sanitation:—

- (a) The cleanliness of the houses of the inhabitants is much neglected by sweepers, who sometimes leave them uncleaned for several days.
- (b) The butchers of the town are in the habit of killing old and diseased animals for food, in consequence of which purchasers not only waste their money, but render themselves liable to incur diseases.

The writer approves of the plan adopted by the municipality of Bijnour for remedying the above nuisances. A special official has been appointed by the committee for superintending the cleanliness of the city, while butchers are not allowed to kill any animal for market, unless it has been previously inspected. A similar plan should be followed at Nugeena.

The same paper, of the 5th June, praises Chowdree Shere Singh—a gentleman of Kant in the Moradabad District—for having voluntarily come forward for the relief of the

inhabitants of the town, the houses of which were destroyed by the disastrous fires which recently, on two occasions, broke out A general permission was given by the chowdree to all persons who stood in need of help in rebuilding their houses to procure the thatching and building materials from Accordingly hundreds of rupees his house free of cost. worth of straw, bamboos, timber, &c., were distributed to the sufferers, and even a kothee of the chowdhree's own residence was dismantled, and the timber, shutters, and other materials were given away to the people. In consequence of this liberal aid the town recovered, so that when under orders from the Collector of Moradabad the tehseeldar went to the place to make enquiries, with a view to give help to the people on the part of Government, he found that the requisite relief had already been furnished by the chowdree, and made a report to the Collector accordingly.

The Akhbár-i-Anjuman-i-Panjab, of the 6th June, suggests that the large sum of money bestowed by the Nawab of Bhawulpore, on the occasion of the Duke of Edinburgh's visit to India, to be spent in some suitable way in commemoration of His Royal Highness, might with advantage be laid out in introducing gas into Lahore which would be of great use and convenience to the people, while it would serve to check criminal cases. In case of the suggestion being entertained by the municipal committee, the editor believes that the European and Native gentlemen of the city would be willing to render aid in the furtherance of the project.

The Punjábí Akhbár supports the above proposal, but adds that, in the event of its failing to meet with the approval of the authorities, the money should be utilized in improving the resources of the Arts School to be opened at Lahore.

The Lawrence Gazette, of the same date, takes notice of the annual Ganges fair, recently held at Ram Ghaut—a famous place of Hindoo pilgrimage in the Boolundshuhur District. It is stated that the fair was this time attended by an unusually

large number of pilgrims, estimated at 300,000, of whom twothirds were women. An idea of the influx of people from all sides may be formed from the fact that from a single direction viz., Allygurh—such a huge concourse of persons came up that the road of the city became almost impassable, and the supply of water in the wells failed. According to a Muttra man, such was the number of pilgrims who passed over the ferry bridge there from the opposite bank, that the ferry collections at the rate of one pice per head came up to as much as Rs. 500 or Rs. 600 per day. The Magistrate of Boolundshuhur, who did not expect such a vast gathering, deputed only a small detachment for the management of the fair; but, nevertheless, all went on well. Foot passengers suffered much trouble from the heat—eight men having died from heat apoplexy on the road, and four from excess of thirst. rates of the duty levied were half anna per head on horses, one anna on bullocks, two annas on camels, and so on.

A correspondent of the Panjábi Akhbár, of the 7th June, writing from Dehli complains of the inconvenience suffered by the people in getting their letters sec., registered at post-offices, in consequence of the time of registration having lately been fixed from 11 A.M. to 3 P.M. To have to go to the post-office, which is often situated at a distance of one or two miles from the city, between those hours of the day in the hot season is felt exceedingly troublesome by the public, and the writer therefore urges on Government the necessity of changing the registration time.

The Koh-i-Núr, of the same date, depicts in vivid colors the distress suffered by the inhabitants of the villages of Pergunnah Lukkee Moorut (Bunnoo). The inhabitants fetch water from the river Korum, which is situated at a distance of five or six kos from the villages. The richer among them, the number of whom is very limited, keep asses for the purpose; but among the bulk of the people the laborious task devolves on the women of their families, who have thus daily to undertake a painful journey of ten or twelve kos, equal to two European

marches, besides performing the household drudgery. In spite of this the quantity of water procured barely suffices even for their own wants and the requirements of the cattle.

The editor wonders that Government should have taken no notice of the grievance. He has been informed that wells could be sunk in the *ilaqa*, but at such a considerable cost as it is absolutely beyond the power of the people to bear; and remarks that, in case this be impracticable, tanks could at any rate be provided, or some other measures adopted for supplying water.

The attention of Government is invited to this.

The same paper again remarks on the injustice of the order of the Punjab Government directing all officers subordinate to it to have the printing for their offices carried out at the Government Jail Press. As before, it is observed that work is done much cheaper at private than at public presses. In illustration of this, it is stated that the Deputy Commissioner of a district having issued orders to the putwarees of the villages in his jurisdiction, that the statements submitted by them should in future be printed, in order that they might be filed in office in a systematic way, printed forms continued for a time to be supplied by the jail press at an exorbitant price. Meanwhile the manager of a private press offered to supply similar forms at half the price, or even less; but the Deputy Commissioner, in consideration of the loss Government would suffer if this were done, insisted on the papers being supplied by the jail press at the usual rate.

The writer objects to this, and is at a loss to understand why people should be compelled by Government to have their work executed at the Government jail press at double the rate charged at private presses. He asks if any law exists which authorizes such a proceeding.

In its correspondence columns, the same paper has the following:—

Rawulpindee.—A terrible fire broke out in the Sudder Bazaar on the 28th May, which burnt eight shops, thereby causing a loss of Rs. 50,000.

Moozuffergurh.—The employés of the Settlement Office have appropriated the serai to their own use, in consequence of which travellers are put to much trouble.

The money-order office has been closed to the great inconvenience of the public.

The attention of the district authorities is invited to the above.

A correspondent of the Kavi Vachan Sudha, of the 10th Jnne, writing from Gya, states that in pursuance of the order of the Lieutenant-Gorvernor of Bengal directing the introduction of Hindee into the courts in the province of Behar in supersession of Oordoo, an examination of the officials of the courts in the district of Gya was recenty held in Hindee. Twenty-eight of the examinees failed, who, together with a few Eurasian clerks were allowed a month's time to prepare the mselves for a second trial.

It is added, that in all the Government schools in the province, Persian and Oordoo have been replaced by Hindee. No student except he be a Mahomedan will be considered entitled to a prize or scholarship, unless he possesses a competent knowledge of Hindee.

The writer gives great credit to the Lieutenant-Governor for the reform, which he remarks will produce very good results, and serve to put a stop to the unfair practices of the umlah.

The same paper notices a scene of gross profligacy and obscenity, said to have happened in Benares. Some Roy held a garden party, at which Brahmin ladies of respectable families were invited on the pretence of being given a feast; but in reality to pander to immoral purposes.

The editor regrets that the Brahmins of Benares should have so far degenerated in these days as to suffer the ladies of their families to indulge in wanton courses, and at the same time warns the gentlemen of Benares against such conduct.

The above incident is also mentioned by the Benares Akhbár of the 19th June, similar particulars being given.

The same paper, in a communicated article, states that the city of Benares, which had formerly a salubrious climate, and to which persons from different parts of India still retire in sickness and old age, no less through the fame which the city enjoyed of being a healthy place than through religious motives, should have now become very unhealthy. The causes of this are said to be the following:—

- (a) The lanes and streets of the city besides being too narrow have passages for draining the filth of the city running beneath them.
- (b) The houses in the city, which are in many cases inhabited by as many as forty or fifty persons, have only a single privy attached to each.
- (c) The filth of the drains discharges itself into the Ganges; while dead bodies of human beings, as well as of animals, are thrown into the river.

In consequence of this a most offensive smell is spread about, while the large number of persons—both Hindoos and Musalmans—who bathe in the river and use its water for drinking purposes contract diseases.

(d) The mouths of the drains at several places on the river side are uncovered, which infects the surrounding air.

The attention of the district authorities and the municipal committee is invited to all this, and they are asked at least to remove the last two defects by issuing orders to the effect, that all corpses should be burnt at the cremation-ground, none being allowed to be thrown into the river; (2) that all car-

casses of animals should be buried outside the city; and (3) that the mouths of the drains at all the ghauts, which are open, should be covered.

The same paper again remarks on the mismanagement of the municipality of Benares. It is stated that since two months ago the narrow lane situated near the jutunbur tree, close to the temple sacred to Budh Vinayak, has been in such a disordered state that the whole lane is covered to a considerable depth by dirty water, on account of which the inhabitants of the lane, and especially the inmates and visitors of the temple, are put to the greatest inconvenience. The priest of the temple complained of the nuisance to the police, and then submitted a petition to the Magistrate, who went to inspect the spet indepenson; but, notwithstanding all this, no steps appear to have been taken for repairing the drain.

The Benares Akhbár, of the 19th June, bears out the above statement, and adds that similar nuisances exist in other parts of the city. The drains in several places are in bad repair, while even those of them which are in a sound state emit an offensive smell, owing to the stones with which they are covered being imperfectly cemented.

The Oudh Akhbár, of the 10th June, has the following in its correspondence columns:—

Seetapore.—The dead body of a woman, bearing signs which showed that she had been strangled to death, was found lying in the road between Khyrabad and Biswah. Another corpse was discovered near the Julalpore Police Station, from which it appeared that the murderer had burnt the mouth of the deceased. No trace of the offender, nor the cause of murder, can be discovered in either case.

A third dead body was found in the city of Seetapore, which appeared from the marks on it to have been killed by some wild beast.

A Hindoo woman cruelly scorched the body of her son's wife, who was eleven years old, with red hot iron bars till she was half dead. On the incident being reported to the police, the offender was despatched to the Court at Seetapore, and sentenced to rigorous imprisonment.

Neemkhar (Seetapore).—The famous Hindoo fair annually held here came off recently. It was attended by pilgrims from long distances, the number of whom is estimated at upwards of 50,000. The police arrangements are reported to have been very bad, so many thefts having happened that ten per cent. of the pilgrims were robbed. The writer mentions the particulars of a very serious case of robbery accompanied with murder which are these :-- A Thakoor, the zemindar of Mouzah Dhonda, Pergunnah Muchhraita, started for the fair with his family. He proceeded on his way leaving the conveyance carrying the women, which were escorted by a guard of 20 attendants, to march behind. At 10 o'clock at night, when the party reached Beta Nala, they were attacked by a gang of dacoits. A fierce contest ensued, in which one of the soldiers attending the conveyances was killed, and twelve were severely wounded. The women finding their protectors overpowered, offered a brave resistance to the dacoits, till at last five of them were killed, and several wounded. The dacoits plundered all the property and ornaments, with which they made off, and no trace of them has hitherto been discovered.

The Akhbár-i-Alam, of the 12th June, remarks that since a few years ago books are very badly printed at most of the Native presses, while their paper, writing, and orthography are defective, and their arrangement is so bad that several leaves are sometimes missing in a book. It is suggested that, in order to prevent the loss suffered by persons who purchase such books, Government would do well to lay down a special Act.

The same paper refers to the report that the Viceroy was inclined to appoint two Native Judges in the High Court at

Bombay, but that the Chief Justice thought one quite sufficient. The editor favours the Viceroy's opinion, and takes this occasion to remark that, since there is a Native Judge in the High Courts at Bombay and Calcutta, there seems to be no reason why the High Court at Allahabad should not enjoy a similar privilege.

The Benares Akhbár, of the same date, learns from a contemporary that a serious dacoity lately took place in Thilungpore—a village three kos from Surat. The dacoits were twenty-two in number, and the amount of property plundered was Rs. 12,000.

In its local news columns, the same paper states that the budmashes of Benares have devised various artifices for oppressing the gentlemen of the city. These are chiefly the following:—

- (a) They threaten them, and thus gain their object; and in the event of their failing in it, and the victims being rich, surprise them on the road, and by wounding or hurting themselves involve them in difficulties.
- (b) On being found guilty in any case of criminal assault, &c., they state in their depositions that they were abetted in the offence by some Native of position.
- (c) They go to some shroff, and on some pretence or other have certain ornaments or other valuables shown them, of which they fully ascertain the weight and other particulars, and then by having a notice inserted in the police diary that such and such of their things have been stolen, and after a time submitting a petition stating that their suspicions lay on such a person, succeed in having the offence proved against the poor banker, and thus ruining him.

The writer hopes the present Magistrate of Benares, who is impartial in the administration of justice, will see to all this.

In the next article, likewise in the local news columns, the editor repeats the often noticed complaint as to the injustice for a fair of 3 pies per head in the dry, and double as much in the rainy season, being charged on passengers who are mostly the pilgrims who perform the holy circumambulation called the Panch Koshee Yatra, on the ferry bridge across the Burna, which is said to be about a span in depth and two cubits in breadth. The same remark applies to several other ferry bridges at the bank of the Burna.

The attention of the Magistrate of Benares is invited to the above.

The Allygurh Institute Gazette, of the 13th June, in its local news column, points out the need of repairing the stairs of the famous tank in the city, which passes by the name of Uchul Talab, the defective state of which is said to be the cause of one or two persons being drowned in the tank every year. One case has only recently happened.

The same paper pleads in favour of the proposal started in Bengal as to the appointment of Qazees for the registration, supervision and decision of affairs connected with marriages, divorce, &c., among Musalmans, and thinks that it should be adopted in all presidencies in British India. The editor dwells at some length on the advantages which, he thinks, would be derived by the adoption of the plan.

In the next article the same paper takes exception to the unequal advantages which the law of limitation gives to Government over the subjects. While the rights of the latter are nullified on the expiration of twelve years, the former can recover them till sixty years. The editor considers this highly objectionable, and thinks that, if the distinction be altogether removed, the rule should at least be so far modified that, in cases in which a subject should urge claims to some property against Government, the statutary limits should be the same for both.

In a third article the same paper holds up the famous Howrah police case as a glaring example of the dishonest procedure of the police, of the way in which cases are forged by them, and innocent men are involved in difficulties, and of the indifference of the Courts of Law in dealing with their unlawful conduct. In their attempt to subject a poor barber and the members of his family to the utmost penalty of the law, they went so far as actually to produce the sword, skull, and other things, before the Court, to prove the alleged murder, although the woman declared to have been murdered was alive, and even appeared before the Court while the case was being tried. But, notwithstanding all this, the Court, far from calling the police to account for all this fabrication and villainy, simply dismissed the case.

In closing his notice of the case, the editor assures Government that by far the greatest number of cases of thefts, murder, adultery, and other crimes, are due solely to the unlawful procedure of the police, and he impresses on Government the necessity of putting a shop to it.

The Akhbar-i-Anjuman-i-Panjáb, of the same date, has an article on court-fee stamps. The writer, while acknowledging that the substitution of these stamps for stamp-papers is advantageous both to the Government and the people,—to the former by the saving the paper and lessening the time and labour spent in the preparation of stamp-papers, and to the latter by removing all fear of the loss formerly suffered by them owing to the stamp-papers often becoming useless by reason of defective composition or writing, -points out certain evils which the change is likely to bring about. In the first place the stamps might be stolen, without any chance of the theft being discovered, there being no numbers or other writing on them to prove them to be the property of any particular: person; in the second place, the umlah will find opportunities for cheating litigants by taking off costly stamps from petitions and substituting others of less value, and so on.

In order to remove these evils, the writer suggests—(1) that a blank space should be left in the stamps for inserting the names of the vendor and the purchaser, and the date of sale; and (2) that the vendors of the stamps should be required to register the names of purchasers.

The writer is also of opinion that, instead of making a hole in the stamps, which spoils documents, especially when several stamps are applied on one paper, it would be well if the stamps were simply defaced, as in case of postage stamps.

The same paper remarks that the forms of oaths set down by the High Court at Allahabad in conformity with the Indian Evidence Act are objectionable, both on account of being too long and expressed in words, the meaning of which cannot be understood by ignorant persons. In the editor's opinion, the words of the oath should be very easy and simple, in order that their meaning may be fully understood by witnesses.

The Koh-i-Núr, of the 14th June, in a communicated article, revives the subject of cow-killing, which has from time to time been discussed in newspapers at some length. The writer remarks that in the civilized countries of Europe the ruling power never permits any act or measure which may cause dissatisfaction among its subjects, and he, therefore, thinks it a matter of great surprise that the English Government should tolerate cow-killing, which is the prolific source of the discontent of a nation which forms by far the greatest portion of its Indian subjects, simply because of its affording means of sensual gratification to a few persons. The writer concludes by remarking on the political advantages which would be gained by the abolition of the practice.

Another cause of disaffection is said to be the arbitrary sway exercised, and the ill-treatment inflicted by some political officers on the chiefs and princes of Native States. The cause of this is mentioned to be the nomination of Military Officers, who have had little or no experience in political

affairs, to high political appointments, of which numerous instances can be given. In all States where this has been the case, great oppression is practised on the chiefs, they are deprived of their due rights and prerogatives, and are disgraced in public durbars. Lately a high political officer used unbecoming language towards a chief, who is a relative of the Maharajah of Gwalior, and is himself a nobleman of high rank, in a public durbar, which it is not proper to mention here. In another instance a political officer sent word to a Rajah to call on him at an appointed hour, and on the latter presenting himself at his bungalow told him that he could not see him at that time, as he was at dinner, although the chief had been in waiting at the door for half an hour.

Such ill-treament cannot but make a bad impression on the minds of the chiefs, which is not likely to be effaced by The writer thinks it strange that the Viceroy and time. Governor-General of India should assure Indian chiefs and princes at public durbars that their rank, dignity, and prerogatives will always be duly regarded by him, and that the Queen herself should lay down in her Proclamation of 1858 that the rank and dignity of Indian chiefs will be respected by Her Majesty's Government just as well as her own; and yet political officers should treat the chiefs in the way abovementioned, and thereby frustrate the promises of Her Majesty and the Viceroy. The writer concludes by saying that if Government were to direct its attention to the subject, the state of things would be found to be worse than what has been brought to its notice here.

The Rohilkhund Akhbár, of the same date, alluding to the former of the above subjects—viz., the slaughter of kine,—makes the following remarks:—

Cow-killing has now-a-days become quite a trade. Leather dealers, who derive considerable profit by the trade, advance money to butchers sufficient for the purchase of a certain number of cows and buffaloes. These the butchers immediately kill,

delivering the skins to the dealers in return for the money advanced, the flesh and fat being left to themselves as a clear gain. This trade has brought about extreme distress and misery and is the principal cause of the famine which has become such an evil in India. Cows and bullocks have become so rare that milk and butter are very scarce; while bullocks can hardly be procured for tilling the fields.

The writer wonders that the attention of Government should not be directed to the practice, which is at the root of all this, and he further remarks that, it is to be regretted that the killing of a quadruped, which is the means of support of mankind, should be passed over as a matter of in difference.

The Koh-i-Núr, of the same date, has the following in its correspondence columns:—

Bunnoo.—A terrible fire broke out in Mouzah Selwan, which burnt 100 houses, together with all the property in them.

Dera Baba Nanuck.—The river flowing beneath this town has for some years past been making dangerous advances towards it, so that unless a strong embankment is built, the safety of the town will remain precarious. The Maharajah of Puttiala formerly assigned a certain sum of money, and Rs. 500 have now been contributed by the Government of Jheend; but these contributions are by no means sufficient for the erection of the bund, and it is proper that other gentlemen should assist in the undertaking.

Umritsur.—It is reported that a party of women, who were going from Umritsur to Buttala, were attacked by dacoits near Kunjree-ka-Kunwa, who beat them, and took off all their ornaments, with which they ran away. No trace of the offenders has hitherto been discovered.

In its local news columns, the same paper notices certain cases of fire which recently happened in the city (Lahore). One

of these took place near the China mosque, which destroyed a house with all the property in it, and burnt to death the wife and infant child of the owner; another in Baghbanpoorsa, in which two women were burnt; and a third in Sabz Mundee, outside the Shah Alam Gate, in which a bhistee's son lost his life.

The Panjábi Akhbár, of the same date, has an article on the pay of the Native soldiers of the Indian army. The object is to show that the present pay of the soldiers is so small as to be very discouraging to the recipients, and to afford no attraction to others to enlist in the military service. The reason is obvious. With the increase in the rate of provisions, the price of labour has also enhanced so much so that, while formerly a coolie could be had, say, for 11 or 2 annas per diem, he can now scarcely be got for 3 or even 4 annas; and the same may be said of workmen such as carpenters, blacksmiths, &c. For this reason it is only just and proper that the pay of the soldiery should be increased, the old rate of Rs. 7 per mensem (rising to Rs. 9 and Rs. 10 after a service of 6 and 10 years, respectively), which was fixed at a time when every thing was cheap, being by no means sufficient to cover the expenses of themselves and their families in these times of scarcity. Unless this is done, not only will Government find it very difficult to procure men for the army, but those now serving in it will quit in numbers.

A correspondent of the Oordoo Delhi Gazette, of the same date, while noticing with approval the circular said to have been issued by the High Court, North-Western Provinces, to the District Judges, calling upon them to submit a report stating the times of their attending and leaving their courts, thinks that it would be well if a similar enquiry were made from Magistrates, who are irregular and unpunctual in their attendance at courts to the great inconvenience of litigants. Apropos of this, the correspondent also invites attention to the trouble suffered by litigants for want of

accommodation in connection with court-houses to shelter them from the inclemencies of the weather.

The writer hopes the High Court will see to this.

The Muir Gazette, of the 16th June, follows up the above effectively. It is observed that in tehseels and other mofussil courts there is no fixed time for the attendance of the officials. The tehseeldar comes to office whenever he chooses, and often decides cases at home; and his example is followed by his subordinate officials. The consequence is that litigants, and persons who take their documents to tehseels for registration, have to attend the court for several days in succession before they obtain a hearing.

Under these circumstances, the editor would strongly recommend that steps similar to those taken by the High Court, North-Western Provinces, and the Chief Court, Punjab, in case of district civil courts, should also be adopted in case of the mofussil courts, in order that the irregularities referred to may be removed.

In connection with this, the writer also notices the change in office time made in some offices in the hot weather—a system which he entirely disapproves as being inconvenient alike to officials and suitors, besides being injurious to the public service. In his opinion, the office time should be from 10 A.M. to 4 P.M. in all seasons of the year, and refreshment rooms should be built near each court to shelter litigants from heat and rain.

The Samay Vinod, of the 15th June, states that the total number of persons attacked by the cholera which lately raged so fiercely in Kala Doongee (Nynee Tal) was 120, of whom about 80 died the rest having recovered.

The Shola-i-Túr, of the same date, invites attention to an unlawful proceeding resorted to by mortgagors in order to cheat mortgagees. They pledge the same estate to different

persons at different times, and the process is so fearlessly conducted that in each deed it is laid down that, at the time of the writing of the documents the estate was free from all mortgage or sale contract. The consequence is that the mortgagees lose their money, besides incurring much useless trouble.

In the writer's opinion, an effective stop could be put to the abuse by the adoption of the following plans:—

- (a) At the time of a deed of mortgage being produced for registration, the registrar should cause a proclamation to be made on the spot where the mortgaged estate lies, in order to ensure whether or not it is already under a pledge, before registering the document.
- (b) A section should be added to the criminal procedure code prescribing the punishment to which a person, who, on mortgaging an estate which is already under a pledge to another person, conceals the fact from him, would be liable.
- (c) On an action being brought before the court against the fraudulent mortgagor, the court should be authorized to prosecute him criminally, as in case of forgery.

The Kárnámah, of the 16th June, draws attention to the shifts and expedients employed by debtors in order to evade payment, and nullify the decrees passed against them by the court. At the time of borrowing money they make firm promises and draw up a bond; but, when the time for payment comes, fail to make good their engagements, thereby putting the creditors under the painful necessity of preferring After undergoing much cost and labour the creditors succeed in obtaining a decree, but even then the recovery of the money is no easy affair. The judgmentdebtor is previously aware of the court process, so that by the time a warrant of attachment is issued he removes his property and absconds. If after much search some portion of the property is got, it is released from attachment on the relatives of the debtor bringing forward an objection. To add

warrant to the debtor's house, the latter shuts the door, the Civil Judge of Lucknow does not authorize its being broken open. The peon simply calls at the door, and on his cries being unheeded makes a report to that effect to the court, when an order for attachment is issued to the bailiff, who is no more successful, while, in the meantime, the judgment-debtor gets opportunities for saving his property from falling into the hands of his creditor.

In brief, by means of such shifts, and the indulgence allowed by the law, dishonest persons set the order of the court at defiance, and even, on a decree being passed against them, escape from liability.

The editor is at a loss to understand why the Civil Judge should not authorize the attachment of a judgment-debtor's property by breaking open the door of his house, and the more so, seeing that orders for the attachment of property in that way are constantly issued by the Privy Council and the High Court at Calcutta; and that even at Lucknow the Judge of the Small Cause Court has, in several instances, committed debtors to the criminal court for having evaded the attachment of their property by shutting up their houses.

He hopes that on the above facts being brought to the notice of the Judicial Commissioner, proper orders will be issued by him for removing the grievance complained of.

The same paper states that, in consequence of the old Lucknow and Cawnpore road being less frequented, owing to the introduction of the railway, dacoits find opportunities for assaulting and plundering the passengers on it, and it calls upon the authorities to take the necessary steps for the protection of the road. Unless this is done, the editor thinks it likely that, with the loss of property loss of life will happen.

The Khair Khwáh-i-Panjáb, of the same date, publishes an essay by Gopee Nath Akseer, of Moostuffabad (Umballah),

in which the writer discusses at some length the evil consequences, in political, social, and moral points of view, resulting from the pernicious practice of giving daughters in marriage in lieu of a consideration, which is very common in the Panjab, and has so often been noticed in the Selections; and calls upon Government to put a stop to it authoritatively. In the writer's opinion, in the present semi-civilized state of the country, it is useless to hope that the people will get rid of the practice by forming punchayats among themselves; and he, therefore, urges on Government the imperative necessity of interfering in the matter, and checking the vicious practice by law, just as it has done in case of suttee and infanticide.

The Roznámcha, of the 17th June, in its local news columns, regrets to observe that in spite of the exertions of the Government and the police, budmashes are becoming more and more prevalent in Lucknow. They have made it a practice with them to stand in the lanes every evening in bands of four or five, armed with lathies, edged with iron points. On seeing any person purchasing gold, silver, or other precious things from any shop, the persons of the band within whose limit it lies give notice to their comrades by whistling, so that the budmashes lurking near the lane to which the man directs his course suddenly fall on and rob him of all the property in his possession.

The authorities are asked to take steps for protecting the people against the oppressions of these bad characters.

The same paper, noticing the criminal assault recently made by some one on an old member of the Lucknow municipal committee, named Yusuf Mirza, near Akbaree-Durwaza, states that according to some this was the consequence of an order of the committee, according to which the dead bodies of the richer classes of the people, are to be buried within the limits of the city, while those of the lower and middling classes of Musalmans are to be interred at the side of the Aish Bagh, where filth and the refuse of abkaree godowns are

collected in heaps, in consequence of which such offensive smell is spread to a great distance all around, that people find it difficult to pass that way. How much inconvenience is suffered by persons who have to stay amidst the stench until the funeral ceremonies are over, may be imagined. Suffice it to say, that many of them fall sick on their return from the burial-ground.

The editor is at a loss to see why the burial of the dead bodies of the lower and middling classes of Musalmans within the city should corrupt the air any more than of those of the richer classes; and, for these reasons, thinks that the local Government and the municipal committee should get the order in question cancelled, and that just as the cemeteries for the rich have been allowed to continue in the city, and sweepers have been permitted to bury their dead in the Naya Gaon, a general permission to the same effect should be issued to the people of all other classes; or if this be not done, some clean and good plain should be set apart, and high walled enclosures should be built on it, and chowkeedars posted on the spot, in order that the dead of poor Musalmans should be saved from disrespect, and their graves, over which flowers are scattered, should be preserved from filth and nuisance.

The Benarés Akhbar, of the 19th June, regrets to find that little or no care should be taken by Government of the endowments consecrated to charitable and religious purposes which have no heir or claimant. A large number of pagodas, temples, shrines, and serais for travellers are sold, while others fall into ruins, and not a few are appropriated by fukeers, who have lived in them for a long time. In the same way, groves, lands, &c., endowed for charitable purposes, are re-occupied by the zemindars from whom they were originally purchased by the donors,

This state of things is particularly to be seen at Benares. Several of the ghauts on the banks of the Ganges are out of repair, in consequence of which men and cattle fall into the

river; so also many dhurmshalas are sadly in want of repair, while others have fallen into decay, and their materials and the lands, &c., belonging to them have been appropriated or sold to private persons. The editor mentions names of some of the dhurmsalas, &c, which have shared such a fate.

He thinks it a matter of great pity that Government should take no notice of this, although a ruling has been passed by it, according to which it is bound to take care of institutions devoted to pious purposes, which should have no heirs to look after them, and to spend the proceeds from the endowments belonging to them for their maintenance.

The attention of Government and the municipal committee of Benares is invited to the above.

Under the heading "Ghazeepore," the same paper states that a European, with the aid of some peons, holds mock auctions in the city, and by that expedient cheats ignorant persons out of their money.

The Oudh Akhbar, of the 20th June, in its local news columns, states that on the 18th idem a Government chuprassee beat a villager so severely that he became senseless. On enquiry it was found that the poor man had at first promised to go to the Chilly Island, but subsequently, on hearing that the emigrants who go there never came back, had refused.

The editor objects to the proceeding, and is of opinion that such harsh measures should not be employed by Government chuprassees, and that only those who are willing should be enrolled in the list of emigrants.

In its correspondence columns, the same paper notices the murdering of a child with extreme cruelty and barbarity in Baraitch (Oudh) for the sake of its ornaments worth Rs. 35 only. The writer takes this occasion to remark on the fatal consequences attending the practice of decorating children with ornaments, and the necessity of putting a stop to it—a subject often discussed in the Selections.

POLITICAL (FOREIGN).

The Marwar Gazette, of the 2nd June, publishes a detail of the jagheers allotted by the Maharajah of Jodhpore to the different members of the royal family.

It also publishes a notice issued by the Government of Jodhpore, and fixed at the gates of the city, according to which no person will be allowed to frequent the city streets after a fixed hour at night without lights.

Two guns will henceforward be fired within a brief interval, after the firing of the first of which and before the discharge of the second all persons must return to their houses.

The sirdars and courtiers have been provided with tickets in order that, whenever through some cause they may have occasion to go in the city after the fixed hour, they should pass unmolested by showing them.

The Lawrence Gazette, of the 6th June, learns from a correspondent at Mynpoory that active steps are being taken by the Government of Gwalior for the arrest of the dacoits and lawless offenders in that territory, upwards of fifty officers of the state having been deputed for the duty. Two notorious dacoits, who, besides robbing passengers of their property, used to cut off their noses, have been killed by the Thakoors of Nugla Sulawe, and their heads presented before the Maharajah. As a reward for this service a jagheer, it is said, will be conferred on the Thakoors.

The Malwah Akhbar, of the same date, publishes an appeal to the Government of Indore on the part of the labourers employed to work for it. It is said that great extortions are practised on the poor men by the employés of the State. If they present themselves at one place to work, they are told to go to another, and thence again to a third, and for all the time which is thus lost no allowance is made in calculating their wages. In this way each labourer gets only a portion

of his fixed daily wages, and, to add to the grievance, even that portion is allowed at the rate of 16 tukas for a rupee, instead of 20 or 21 tukas, which is the market rate.

Attention is also invited to the loss suffered by the people of Indore, owing to a discount being charged by money-changers on old copper coins, although at the time of giving change both old and new coins are given by them without any such allowance being made. The editor considers this improper, and thinks that an equal rate should be fixed for coins of both kinds, or a term should be fixed after which the old coins should be withdrawn from circulation—a notice to that effect being published.

The same paper prefers an appeal to Sir Madhav Rao on the part of the pleaders of Indore. It is observed that, unlike the rule obtaining in the English courts of law, and even in Maharajah Holkar's court, to which pleaders have a free access, men of that profession are not allowed admission into the Prime Minister's court by the orderlies in attendance. This is considered highly insulting and derogatory to their position by the pleaders, and they ask if it is under orders from Sir Madhav Rao that this course has been adopted. At any rate, the proceeding is pronounced to be objectionable, and one which is sure to interfere with the administration of justice, and the writer therefore thinks that some particular day in the week should be set apart on which the Prime Minister's court should be open to pleaders.

The same paper states with pleasure that Anand Rao, the eldest son of Sir Madhav Rao, is about to arrive at Indore to take up the duty of usher to the two sons of Maharajah Holkar on a monthly salary of Rs. 500.

A Toolseepore correspondent of the Oordoo Akhbár, of the 8th June, while praising Sir Jung Bahadoor, G.C.B., G.C.S.I., Premier of Nepaul, for his good administration, which is said to be proverbial for a total absence of crimes, such as highway robberies, thefts, &c., so prevalent under other governments, takes exception to a strange practice said to exist in that State. The functionaries of each and all the ilaques belonging to the State are subjected to two tests, the first or the minor test taking place after every fourth or fifth year, and the second or the major test after fifteen years. The way in which the minor test is held is this. The officials of the pergunnah and soobah who are to be judged are suddenly placed in custody and sent to the capital, where their papers are examined in different courts for a long time. Should they escape unscathed from the ordeal by means of nuzranas, &c., they are reintstated in their offices, or transferred to other places, but if some charge is proved against them, they are ruined.

The major test, to which all officers of whatever rank and position—civil as well as military together—including the chowdhrees, punches, and other persons who are in any way connected with the State management are subjected, begins by confining all of them at once by putting them in the stocks, in which state they remain until the trial is over. This process is at present being pursued in that part of the dominions of Nepal which formerly belonged to Oudh, and which was ceded to the Nepal Government by the English Government after the mutiny of 1857, in acknowledgment of the aid rendered by the former on the occasion. A wholesale capture of the officers, &c., is going on, which has spread such a panic that some of the subjects have quitted the territory and taken up their abode in Toolseepore.

A Gwalior correspondent of the Agra Akhbár, of the same date, draws the attention of that Government to the filthy state of the nullah lying between the city and the cantonment, due to its being used by persons of both sexes for necessary purposes, and points out the need of doing away with the nuisance by building a latrine at some suitable place.

The Oudh Akhbar, of the 13th June, in amendment of the statement which appeared in a late issue of that paper, relative to the disturbance which lately took place in Bhopal, reports that the cause of the affray is now said to be the marriage of the princess Sultan Jahan Begum with a native of Jhuggur. The contract was secretly entered into about two months ago, and on becoming public, disgusted the members of the royal family, so as to make them intent on raising a disturbance. Fortunately, however, the timely arrival of Colonel Watson, Officiating Agent of the Governor-General for Central India, who directed the Begum to adopt certain measures, and then returned to Indore, averted the apprehended consequence. A grand public festival will shortly be held in congratulation of the marriage which the English Government is said to have sanctioned.

The writer adds, that the particulars of the disturbance, as before mentioned, are now said to be only so far true that a fierce affray took place, no bloodshed having ensued. He also thinks it worth while to state that a strict prohibition has been issued by the Government of Bhopal against the publication or communication of the state news, which are kept quite secret. This (according to another paper) is the cause of the publication of the local newspaper having been stopped.

The Nir-ul-Absar, of the 15th June, attacks the statements which have appeared in some English newspapers as to the title of G.C.S.I. lately conferred by Her Majesty on Sir Jung Bahadoor, G.C.B., Premier of Nepal, being undeserved. It is observed that although through envy the editors of English newspapers may say that the Nepalese did nothing at the time of the mutiny of 1857 beyond standing at a distance, watching an opportunity for plunder, the fact is that in that time of difficulty Sir Jung Bahadoor brought up an army of 25,000 strong for the aid of the English which dispirited the rebels. Nor was this army backward in fighting; so far from this being the case, they fought so well that

the English Government sent a certain sum of money to the Nepal Government, with the request that it should be spent in the support of the families of those of the soldiers who had sacrificed their lives in its cause. With all these convincing proofs of friendship and good will, the editor of an English newspaper complains of the unfriendly bearing of the Nepal Government towards the English by stating (1) that it does not allow any Englishman to enter its dominions, and (2) that it keeps the English Resident as a prisoner.

The Puttiala Akhbar, of the 16th June, learns from a correspondent that in consequence of the approaching marriage of his son, Teeka Sahib, the Rajah of Keonthul (a Native State situated in the Simla district) has, according to the custom obtaining in Kohistan, begun levying contributions from his subjects to meet the matrimonial expenses. The levy is said to be so exorbitant as to have caused an uproar in the whole territory. An idea of it may be formed from the fact that from a single pergunnah—viz., Poonur,—which contains only 300 houses, as much as Rs. 21,000 have been raised, the consequence being that the zemindars have been ruined, and are quitting the State and settling in foreign territories.

The editor advises the rajah to be moderate in his demands, and relieve his subjects from the heavy burden imposed on them.

The Benares Akhbar, of the 19th June, states that it is reported that a disturbance recently took place among the subjects of Rewah, in which some 15 or 20 men were killed, and several were wounded.

EDUCATIONAL.

The Kárnámah, of the 9th June, in its local news columns, states that, unlike the schools and colleges in all other presidencies, no midsummer vacation is allowed at the Canning College, Lucknow. Last year, on a complaint being preferred by the students before the Chief Commissioner, a few days'

vacation were allowed, but this year, although the heat has been more intense than it was in the last year, the indulgence was withheld. The editor takes exception to the course. The majority of the students of the college are sons of talookdars and rich men, who having been brought up with indulgence and tenderness from their infancy, cannot be expected to be able to bear the inclemencies of the weather without serious injury to their health; and it may therefore be imagined how painful and discouraging it must be felt by them to go home from the schools amidst the scorching rays of the sun and sultry winds. It ought to be the duty of the Principal to study the comfort and convenience of his pupils, and afford them every encouragement to apply themselves diligently to learning, rather than to enforce any measure which may in any way serve to divert their minds from the pursuit of knowledge, in order that the brilliant fame which Canning College has acquired, chiefly on account of one of its students, the son of the Treasury head-clerk, Lucknow, who went to England in September last to study for the Civil Service examination having recently passed that examination with credit, may continue increasing.

The attention of the Chief Commissioner is invited to the above, and the necessity of a general order being passed by the Supreme Government on the subject here discussed is pointed out.

The Roznamcha, of the 10th June, in remarking on the same subject, agrees in the views expressed by the Kárnámah; but at the same time thinks it proper to state, in justice to the Principal, that the decision of the question of the midsummer vacation was left entirely to the college committee having the Commissioner of Lucknow for its president, who refused to sanction it. In fact, so far from being to blame in the matter, the Principal, in the face of the refusal, ordered the college to be closed at 8½ A.M. during the hot season. Such being the case, the correspondent of the Oudh Excelsior, who

blames the Principal for feeling no pity on his pupils, no less than the editor of the Lucknow Times, who speaks of the students of the college having gone in a body to the Principal with the intention of insulting him, when in reality they simply went to him with an application, the result of which was the concession just referred to—viz., the change in the college time—is wrong in his assertion.

The Kárnámah, of the 16th June, reverting to the same subject, states that it is said that the submission of the application for the grant of the midsummer vacation by the younger pupils of the college gave great offence to the Principal, and that, thinking that the higher students had been instrumental in instigating the act, he degraded those of them on whom his suspicions fell. Some of these were reading in the M.A. and B.A. classes, so that one effect of the degradation was that much of the time and labour spent on them was lost altogether. The measure was felt extremely discouraging by the students, so much so that some of them are said to have sent in applications requesting that their names may be struck off the college rolls, while others left off attending the college.

The editor considers the course adopted by the Principal to be injudicious, and remarks as before that, instead of resorting to harsh measures, the officer should strive to afford every encouragement to his pupils.

The Tahzibul Akhbar, of the 12th June, publishes in extenso the proceedings of the meeting lately held at the College Hall, Patna, at the instance of Syud Ahmud Khan, C.S.I., and under the auspices of the Commissioner of Patna, in order to raise subscriptions in aid of the Mahomedan Anglo-Oriental College from the gentry of the district. The proceedings opened with an address by the Commissioner and president of the meeting, in which the object with which it had been convened was briefly mentioned, and a hope expressed that the members would respond to Syud Ahmud Khan's appeal. This was followed by a lengthy speech by

Syud Ahmed Khan, in which he dwelt at large on the fallen condition of Mahomedans, especially as regards education, and the imperative necessity of adopting measures for their amelioration, and moved those present to come forward to assist in the furtherance of the important project originated by him, by alluding to the bright proofs of liberality and self-sacrifice which have been displayed by English noblemen in the cause of the welfare of their nation. Nothing, heobserved, was more common in England than to hear that such and such a nobleman devoted his whole fortune to the cause of national education, that he had endowed so many lakhs of rupees for the development of a particular science; that such and such colleges and dispensaries were established by such and such gentlemen, and so on. The speaker particularly alluded to the noble services rendered to their countrymen by Mr. Muir, brother of the present Lieutenant-Governor of the North-West, and by Professor John Tyndal, the former of whom, finding that the Germans had surpassed the English nation in the culture of Sanskrit learning, is said to have set apart his whole fortune in order to encourage the study of that language among his own nation, while the latter collected Rs. 78,975 by delivering thirty-five lectures on scientific subjects at different places in America, and dedicated all this fortune to promote learning among his countrymen.

The Syud's speech was highly applauded by the audience, and made much impression on their minds, and a subscription of upwards of Rs. 2,500 was contributed on the spot.

A correspondent of the Allygurh Institute Gazette, of the 13th June, states that the gentlemen of Ghazeepore are taking energetic steps towards promoting the cause of female education, and are collecting subscriptions for the establishment of a girls' school in the city, in which, besides reading and writing, needle-work will be taught.

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SOHAN LAL,
Offg. Govt. Reporter on the Vernacular Press
of Cp. er India.

ALLAHABAD: The 25th July, 1873.